

DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the previous office action, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 11, 12, 14, 17, 20, 21, 23-25, and 27-29 and cancelled claims 2, 5, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 26, 31, and 32. Claim 17 is further amended via an Examiner's amendment. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-12, 14, 17, 20, 21, 23-25, and 27-30 have been examined.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-12, 14, 17, 20, 21, 23-25, and 27-30 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant has persuasively argued (see Remarks, filed 11 December 2007) that the amended claims overcome the cited references. No further art could be found that would render the claimed invention unpatentable.
4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew E. Heneghan, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3834. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached at (571) 272-4063.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-3800

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Matthew Heneghan/

Application/Control Number: 10/816,756

Page 4

Art Unit: 2139

Primary Patent Examiner, USPTO AU 2139

March 5, 2008

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Robert Bain on 22 February 2008.

Claim 17 is amended as follows:

17. The system of claim [[16]] 12 wherein the backup key is randomly generated by the server in response to receiving said plurality of encrypted keys from the first client.

/M. H./

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2139